Extradition Treaty to the UK authorities. This draft treaty is presently under consideration of the UK Government.

Readiness of US to sell Armaments to India

262. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that under compulsions of its commercial interests and enormous trade deficit, the US has expressed its readiness to sell some armaments to our country but on the same terms that governed supply of enriched uranium for the Tarapur nuclear reactor; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Elephants in the Country

263. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGh MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in thd Free Press Journal of 10th March, 1986 wherein it has been stated that elephant populaton is dwindling in Asia and particularly in India ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefore ; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take to increase their population in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AESG) of the International Union for the Conservaton of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) referred to in the cited news item does not mention specifically that the elephant population in India is dwindling. However, it is a fact that fragmentation of the elephant's habitat and diversion of forest tracts constituting their migratory rutes for other uses are causing problems in the conservation of the species. There is no evidence that the population of elephants in the country is decreasing.

(c) The Indian Elephant is included in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which provides it full legal protection from hunting and capture. It is also listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) which strictly regulates International trade in the species and its derivatives. Export of Ivory of the Indian Elephant is banned under the current export policy and export of elephants is also not normally permissible. A number of national parks and sanctuaries have been established throughout of the range of distribution of the Indian Elephant in the Country, to afford it protection as well as to its habitat. The States and Union territories where elephants are found have been advised to specially protect identified migration corridors. Specific recommendations made for the conservation of the Indian Elephant by the Asian Elphant Specialist Group are being followed up with the concerned States and Union territories.

चार्ल्स शोभराज के फिर से भाग निकलने को रोकने के लिए कदम

264. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव** : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या चार्ल्स शोभराज के जेल से भाग निकलने से संबंधित जांच पूरी हो गयी है ;